

necessary to initiate discussion, to have hearings during which all points of view can be considered, and determine what action might be appropriate.

It is in that spirit that I join my colleagues, and I look forward to working with my fellow members, the White House, state and local officials and the industry to form a fair rational approach to these complex but important issues.

FULL FUNDING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4055, the IDEA Full Funding Act, which I'm proud to be a co-sponsor of.

This bill is a prudent investment in our children that will finally put us on track to fulfill the Federal government's share of special education. It sets a schedule to meet the 40% Federal commitment by FY 2010 by authorizing increases of \$2 billion each year to reach the level of funding we should have been providing all along.

I'm proud to have supported House Concurrent Resolution 84 last year which urged the Congress and the President to fully fund special education. But we can do more and we should, by passing this important bill.

Everyone agrees that a good education is critical to our children's future and their success, yet we are not providing the financial resources to make this possible. It's hard for local school districts to reduce class sizes, build needed schools, or hire new teachers while still providing for special education services, especially when the Federal government doesn't pay its fair share.

School districts are struggling with how to provide the best education possible for all children within tightly constrained budgets. California has over 600,000 students who receive special education and related services at a reported cost of \$3.4 billion. Without Federal assistance, local school districts are forced to use their general funds to the detriment of other programs.

In a speech I gave almost one year ago in support of House Concurrent Resolution 84, I called upon Congress to fulfill its pledge for full funding of IDEA. I'm pleased that the leadership of the House heard my call and that of my colleagues to make good on the Federal government's obligation to the school districts and our children across our country.

I thank the House leadership for bringing this important piece of legislation to the floor and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4055.

THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INAUGURAL CONVENTION: MAY 1-3, 2000

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of its Inaugural Convention, The National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development should be commended for its important work.

The National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development [National CAPACD] was formed to address a significant issue. It is dedicated to meeting the housing and community development needs of the Asian Pacific American population.

For more than two decades, the founding member organizations of National CAPACD have been providing effective services to Asian Pacific Americans, immigrants, refugees, minority and impoverished populations. The formation of National CAPACD will help coordinate the diverse work of the non-profit organizations that serve the rapidly expanding Asian Pacific American (APA) population. National CAPACD's mission is to enhance the capacity and ability of community based organizations to conduct community development activities for the Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

National CAPACD seeks to accomplish this mission by: Creating an information sharing network to provide mutual support for established and emerging community development organizations, and to define advocacy issues; Establishing a presence and voice to raise awareness and impact community development policies on a local and national level; Increasing public and private resources to build community development capacity. Pursuing activities that promote unity, trust, support, mutual assistance, empowerment, and inclusion.

Through this important work, National CAPACD seeks to strengthen affordable housing development; economic development activities, such as workforce and business development; community empowerment and cultural preservation; and neighborhood revitalization.

National CAPACD will increase representation, participation, and resources in Asian Pacific American communities.

SUPPORT FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

HON. DAVID M. MCINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Charter Schools Week and the resolution which highlights the success of this important institution. National Charter Schools Week was declared to recognize the achievement of charter schools across America. It is supported by more than sixty grassroots organizations including the Indiana Charter School Association. Hundreds of schools, governors, and legislators are participating in activities to honor the involvement, dedication,

and academic success of students, parents, teachers, and administrators.

Declared "one of the most promising education innovations in recent years" by the Indianapolis Star charter schools are an essential institution in a state which wants to bring the community together for education and give students greater opportunities to succeed academically.

Charter schools are an important step in engaging "edupreneurs"—people who care deeply about education, are able to replicate successful practice because of their knowledge of how results-oriented systems work, and have the potential to bring enormous financial resources to the table for the betterment of their students' education.

Charter schools create "social capital" by greatly expanding the opportunities for entire communities—particularly parents—to become involved with the life of the school. Parents tend to be involved more in charter schools, both because they are welcomed, and in some cases required to participate, but also because people tend to develop a vested interest in situations where they have made a deliberate choice. Choice leads to ownership and responsibility.

Choice also stimulates innovation. Charter schools tend to provide smaller and more "family-like" environments which some children need to succeed. Charter schools serve diverse groups of students including those of lower income and those with disabilities. These customized environment can provide extra attention, tailored curricula, new learning innovations, and other benefits.

As I said, charter schools are essential to building a successful education system. Thirty-six states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico have passed laws authorizing charter schools. It is my hope that Indiana will be the thirty-seventh. By adopting a strong charter school law, we will ensure that no child is left behind.

For these reasons, I am an original co-sponsor of this resolution and an enthusiastic supporter of National Charter Schools Week.

IN COMMEMORATION OF HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I commend Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, which memorializes the six million Jews murdered during World War II.

This somber anniversary is a tribute to the memory of the victims of the Holocaust, the heroism of those who fought back, and the strength of those who survived. A national holiday in Israel, Yom Hashoah is also commemorated in communities across this country.

I strongly believe that we must act on our promise to "never forget" by acting on our responsibility to teach future generations about the lessons of the Holocaust. As we prepare our children for a new century, we must instill in them the tolerance and compassion to prevent the greatest terror of the past century